

Amendments to Claims

1. (currently amended) A polysaccharide fiber, comprising: a polymer comprising hexose units wherein at least 50% of the hexose units are linked via an $\alpha(1\rightarrow3)$ glycoside linkage, said polymer having a number average degree of polymerization of at least 100, and wherein said fiber has a tensile strength of at least 1 gram per denier.

2. (original) The polysaccharide fiber of Claim 1 wherein substantially all of the hexose units are linked via an $\alpha(1\rightarrow3)$ glycoside linkage.

3. (original) The polysaccharide fiber of Claim 1 wherein the polymer is poly($\alpha(1\rightarrow3)$ -D-glucose).

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A process for producing a polysaccharide fiber, comprising the steps of: dissolving a sufficient amount of a polymer comprising hexose units wherein at least 50% of the hexose units are linked via an $\alpha(1\rightarrow3)$ glycoside linkage in a solvent or in a mixture comprising a solvent to form a liquid crystalline solution having a solids content of at least 10%; and spinning a polysaccharide fiber from said liquid crystalline solution.

6. (original) The process of Claim 5 wherein substantially all of the hexose units are linked via an $\alpha(1\rightarrow3)$ glycoside linkage.

7. (original) The process of Claim 6 wherein prior to dissolving, the polymer is derivatized.

8. (original) The process of Claim 7 wherein the polymer is acetylated.

9. (original) The process of Claim 8 wherein the derivatized polymer is a poly($\alpha(1\rightarrow3)$ -D-glucose acetate).

10. (original) The process of Claim 8 further comprising contacting the polysaccharide fiber with an excess of a saponification or hydrolysis medium to form a regenerated polysaccharide fiber.

11. (original) The process of Claim 5 wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of: an organic acid, an organic halide, a fluorinated alcohol, and mixtures thereof.

12. (canceled)

13. (original) The process of Claim 12 wherein the solids content ranges from about 20 to about 35%.

14. (currently amended) A liquid crystalline solution, comprising: a solvent and an amount sufficient to form liquid crystals of a polymer comprising hexose units wherein at least 50% of the hexose units are linked via an $\alpha(1\rightarrow3)$

glycoside linkage, and wherein the amount of polymer provides a solids content of at least 10%.

15. (original) The liquid crystalline solution of Claim 14 wherein substantially all of the hexose units are linked via an $\alpha(1\rightarrow3)$ glycoside linkage.

16. (original) The liquid crystalline solution of Claim 14 wherein the polymer is poly($\alpha(1\rightarrow3)$ -D-glucose acetate).

17. (original) The liquid crystalline solution of Claim 14 wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of: an organic acid, an organic halide, a fluorinated alcohol, and any combination thereof.

18. (canceled)